



10. Sedges *

TRAITS: Herbs with long, narrow leaves and solid stems. Vary from 1 to 39 inches in height. Tiny, inconspicuous flowers grow in clusters.

HABITAT: Moist or wet ground.

FOODS: Sedges make their own food by photosynthesis.

EATEN BY: Caribou, muskox, Dall sheep, ground squirrels, pikas, marmots, lemmings, voles, geese; also seed-eating birds, such as snow-buntings, longspurs, and rosy finches, eat seeds from the sedges.

"GEE WHIZ": The long, narrow leaf shape of sedges reduces fraying by strong winds.



11. Cottongrass *

TRAITS: Herbaceous plant with long, narrow leaves, and solid stems. This misnamed sedge has tufts of white cotton-like bristles on the seeds.

HABITAT: Grows on moist or wet ground.

FOODS: Makes its own food by photosynthesis.

EATEN BY: Caribou, muskox, lemmings, voles, geese.

"GEE WHIZ": The cottony seeds of these plants are scattered by the wind.



12. Dryas *

TRAITS: Often matted, low-growing, evergreen, herbaceous dwarf shrub. Leaves narrow, sometimes wavy-edged.

HABITAT: Dry soil of boreal forest and tundra.

FOODS: Makes its own food by photosynthesis.

EATEN BY: Caribou, lemmings, ground squirrels.

"GEE WHIZ": The small, leathery leaves of dryas lose less water than other kinds of leaves and are more resistant to winds.